

STATE OF NEVADA

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

November 18, 2014

To All Affected Local Governmental Jurisdictions:

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification and additional information to the local governmental jurisdictions concerning whether the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) application scoring process would include "moving down" the Medical Marijuana Establishment (MME) applicants ranking list. When DPBH staff represented that the Division would move to the next ranked applicant if a local jurisdiction did not provide zoning or business license approval, the DPBH staff had not considered the need for the full 90-day application review period for a complete review of all 519 establishment applications.

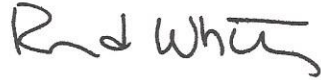
The Division objectively scored and ranked the MME applications for each jurisdiction. The Division's process focused on public health and public safety as it relates to the use of marijuana for medical purposes, per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 453A. The regulatory criteria the Division evaluated included the following: the experience, education and backgrounds of the owners and operators; impact on the community; specifics regarding the labeling of products; the use of independent testing laboratories for product safety; transportation plans for moving the medical marijuana; appropriate building and product security; and plans for educating MME staff and the patients. The scoring and ranking process required the entire statutorily-defined application review period.

NRS 453A.324 limits the number of provisional dispensary registration certificates that the Division can issue in each county. Further, NRS 453A.322 requires the Division to issue all provisional certificates not later than 90 days after receiving an application. At this time, the Division does not have the authority to move down to the next ranked applicant if an applicant who received a provisional registration is disqualified, or to issue any additional provisional certificates, because the 90-day application review period (August 5 to November 3, 2014) has elapsed. Therefore, certain prior communications by DPBH staff only pertained to the application review period.

If the local governmental jurisdiction that issues business licenses does not issue a business license to the provisionally approved MME, the establishment cannot operate. According to NAC 453A.324, the Division may revoke the registration certificate if the establishment is not

operational within 18 months from November 3, 2014, and the applicant would be prohibited from reapplying for a certificate for at least 12 months after that revocation. Subject to any changes by the 2015 Nevada Legislature, the Division will open up a new ten-day application period next calendar year if additional dispensaries are needed to fill the allotted dispensary quantity in local jurisdictions per NRS 453A.324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rd Whitley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" abbreviated as "Rd" and the last name "Whitley" written in a more complete but still stylized manner.

Richard Whitley MS, Administrator  
Division of Public & Behavioral Health